

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

Initially, the Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed March 19, 2004. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the references provided as part of this Information Disclosure Statement.

By the current amendment, claims 1, 6-76 and 80-89 have been cancelled, and claims 100-109 have been added. New claims 100-109 have been drafted taking into account the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, issues raised by the Examiner, are believed to be free of these issues, and are otherwise believed to be in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The instant invention pertains to a process for injecting a two-pack urethane foam composition into a closed sectional portion of a vehicular body member, and foaming and curing this two-pack foam composition within the closed sectional portion so as to reinforce the closed sectional portion and increase a soundproofing property of the closed sectional portion. The two-pack urethane foam composition exhibits a cream time of at most 3 seconds and a rise time of 10-120 seconds after having been injected into the closed sectional portion. Claim 100 is believed to be representative of Applicants' inventive process.

By performing the process as recited in claim 100, a two-pack urethane foam composition is effectively injected into a closed sectional portion of a vehicular body member, such as a center pillar or front pillar, which two-pack urethane foam composition is comparatively light-weight and has a high degree of rigidity. Accordingly, the closed sectional portion is sufficiently reinforced without adding significant weight, while also being able to prevent any sound, such as resonance sound or sound of air passing through the closed sectional portion, from being produced. Also, by practicing the method as recited in claim 100 water, such as rain, can be prevented from entering into the closed sectional portion.

Claims 14-17 and 82 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weber et al. (Weber) in view of Nissen et al. (Nissan). This rejection is respectfully traversed, and the references relied upon by the Examiner are non-applicable with regard to the newly added claims for the following reasons.

While each of Weber and Nissen pertain to forming articles by performing molding operations, neither Weber nor Nissen disclose or suggest **injecting a two-pack urethane foam composition into a closed sectional portion of a vehicular body member**, as recited in independent claim 100. In this regard, neither Weber nor Nissen disclose or suggest injecting a urethane foam composition into any closed sectional portion, let alone a closed sectional portion of a vehicular body member. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that any combination of Weber and Nissen would not result in the invention as recited in claim 100, whereby claims 100-109 are allowable.

It is appreciated that the Examiner has taken the position that it is well known to fill urethane foam forming constituents into closed sectional structures of vehicles. However, that such an operation may be known is not alone sufficient to demonstrate that one having ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to inject the urethane material of Weber into a closed sectional portion of a vehicular body member, especially in light of the fact that the urethane material of Weber is used by itself to produce structural members. Accordingly, even if a reference were provided showing a teaching of filling urethane foam forming constituents into closed sectional structures of vehicles, a combination of this reference with Weber and Nissen would not result in the invention as recited in claim 100, whereby claims 100-109 would remain allowable.

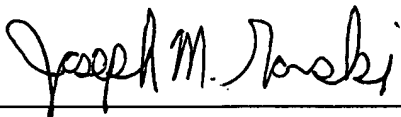
Thus, claims 100-109 are allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner believes that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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